



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
FINANCE DIVISION



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

April 7, 2025

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Gladstone, Delta County
Collection System Improvements
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Number 5866-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project planning document submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project planning document containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project planning document or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at Michigan.gov/SRF under "Environmental Project Reviews." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

April 7, 2025

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted via email to EGLE-WIFFS@Michigan.gov or to me at EGLE, FD, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on this project planning document for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider all comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Yu, the project manager, at 517-599-5487; YuA@michigan.gov; or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dan Beauchamp, Section Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
517-388-3380

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
City of Gladstone, Delta County
Environmental Assessment
April 2025

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Gladstone

Address: 1100 Delta Avenue
Gladstone, Michigan 49837

Authorized Representative: Eric Buckman, City Manager

Project Number: 5866-01

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Gladstone (Gladstone) is in southwest Delta County in the south-central region of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. According to the U.S. Census, Gladstone had an estimated population of 5,257 persons in 2020. The population is expected to remain the same over the next 20 years.

Gladstone is applying for a low interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for sanitary sewer improvements. Project construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2025 and conclude in fall 2026. The total estimated project cost is \$8,200,000. As an overburdened community as determined by EGLE, Gladstone is eligible to receive up to \$984,000 in principal loan forgiveness.

A typical residential user may see up to a \$12.48 monthly rate increase on their sewage bill due to the project. However, the final user cost impact will be adjusted based on the final CWSRF loan amount received by Gladstone.

EXISTING SYSTEM AND PROJECT NEED

Gladstone owns, operates, and maintains its sanitary sewer collection system and municipal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), which serves Gladstone and a small portion of Brampton, Escanaba, and Masonville Townships. The Gladstone WWTP was originally constructed in 1938 on the shore of Little Bay De Noc as a primary treatment plant. Over the years, expansions were completed to add secondary treatment and disinfection to an annual flow rate of one million gallons per day (MGD). Recent upgrades to the WWTP increased the peak sustained rate of flow to 3.5 MGD per day.

The sanitary sewer collection system covers approximately 4.1 square miles and consists of 32-miles of 8 to 30-inch diameter collector sewers and 10 lift stations. The sanitary collection system in Gladstone is between 50 to 100-plus years old. The collection system materials vary depending on age but primarily consist of vitrified clay pipe (VCP), reinforced and non-reinforced concrete pipe, and polyvinyl chloride pipe (PVC).

Sanitary sewers mains were inspected using the National Association for Sewer Service Companies Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) methodology. This assessment was used to identify structural deficiencies in the system. The PACP defects were scored on a scale from one to five, with grade one indicating minor defects to grade five meaning immediate action is needed. The inspections showed surface damage, fractures, and holes throughout the sanitary sewers. Several sections of pipe were identified as having structural grade four and five defects, which are CWSRF eligible. Based on EGLE's review of other factors, such as high likelihood of failure, pipe age, and infiltration and inflow (I/I) issues, sanitary sewers with structural defects of three or less were deemed eligible for CWSRF.

In 2021, Gladstone was issued an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) due to the excessive I/I in the collection system, which led to permit violations at the WWTP. The ACO required Gladstone to correct I/I issues and reduce excess flows. The WWTP was recently rehabilitated to prevent future water quality violations.

PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Alternatives Considered

No-action Alternative

Taking no action would not address known structural integrity and I/I issues present in the collection system. This would increase risk of system value, decrease reliability of the wastewater system, and not allow Gladstone to address their ACO. Therefore, this alternative was not considered further.

Regional Alternative

Gladstone considered merging with the City of Escanaba to create a regional system. However, after going through the development process, it was determined that this option was not cost effective for either city. Additionally, regionalization would not address known structural integrity and I/I issues in the collection system. As such, regionalization was not considered.

Optimization of Existing System

Optimization would not address issues found within the collection system. Therefore, it was not considered further.

Collection System Improvements

This alternative includes sanitary sewer and manhole repairs and replacements based on alleviating areas of excessive I/I and addressing structural defects. Gladstone is in need to repair approximately 15,711 linear feet (LF) of sanitary pipe with excessive I/I issues and/or significant structural defects. Based on structural defects, location, and cost, segments were either recommended for replacement or rehabilitation.

Approximately 7,136 LF of sanitary pipe was proposed for replacement using open trench methods on the following streets: Michigan Avenue from South 5th Street to 11th Street; North 17th Street from 1st Avenue to M-35; and Minnesota Avenue from South 4th Street to 11th Street. Segments would be replaced with PVC pipe of the same diameter as the existing sanitary sewer main. Manholes associated with eligible segments will also be replaced to address alignment adjustments, invert heights, or manhole elevations. This alternative includes costs associated with restoration work, including road, slope, and sidewalk repairs. Additionally, on North 17th Street, the sanitary sewer flow will be diverted towards North 3rd Avenue to address slope issues. This will require the installation of a new sanitary sewer main.

The remaining 8,575 LF of sanitary pipe will be rehabilitated using a trenchless method, through cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining. CIPP lining will occur on the following streets: Minneapolis Avenue from South 6th Street to 18th Street; Delta Avenue from South 11th Street to 15th Street; and Superior Avenue from South 10th Street to 14th Street. The rehabilitation alternative reduces costs and disturbances while extending asset life.

B. Proposed Project and Estimated Cost

To address deficiencies in the Gladstone collection system, collection system repair and replacement was the selected alternative. The selected alternative includes replacement of 28 manholes and approximately 7,136 LF of sanitary sewer main, and lining of 8,575 LF of sanitary sewer main. The proposed project cost is estimated at \$8,200,000. Gladstone anticipates receiving up to \$984,000 in principal loan forgiveness.

PROJECT IMPACTS

A. Water Quality Impacts

The proposed sanitary sewer improvements do not have any anticipated impacts to state-regulated water resources or surface waters, such as inland lakes, streams, or wetlands. No impacts to surface water or groundwater are expected to occur due to these repairs. The replacement and rehabilitation of sanitary sewer mains and manholes will protect surface waters and groundwater by removing sources of contamination and help protect the environment.

B. Construction Impacts

The collection system improvements related construction will take place in existing roadways and rights-of-way which have been previously disturbed. In instances where there is a disturbance to curbing, sidewalks, or manicured lawns, items will be restored to original conditions. There are no anticipated cultural, historical, or archaeological impacts to the surrounding area. Additionally, the proposed project is not expected to have any impacts to endangered or threatened species as the work will occur in an area with limited to no high-quality habitat.

Impacts of construction activities associated with the project are considered short-term disruptions that, for the most part, will not extend past the construction period. Short-term adverse impacts associated with construction include noise, dust, exhaust fumes, removal of groundcover, and increased erosion potential. Construction contract provisions will outline requirements to comply with the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act. Mitigation measures will be taken to prevent damage to surrounding areas for soil erosion, dust, and sedimentation. At a minimum, silt fencing will be installed along the perimeter of work sites.

C. Secondary Impacts

No significant secondary impacts are anticipated due to the project. Improvements to the sanitary sewer system are associated with the need to address deficiencies and increase the reliability of the system.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public meeting on the proposed project planning document was held on February 27, 2023, at the Gladstone City Hall. The public meeting was advertised in *The Daily Press* newspaper and

on the Gladstone website on February 10, 2023. A presentation was given on the proposed project planning document, including alternatives considered, potential project impacts, and estimated cost. No comments were received prior to the public meeting and all questions from the public and council members were answered during the meeting. The Gladstone City Council passed a resolution in support of the project planning document following the hearing.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project will address aging wastewater infrastructure and will have no significant adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on socioeconomic, cultural, or environmental factors. The water quality benefits anticipated from the project are expected to outweigh the short-term adverse impacts. Therefore, a finding of no significant impact has been made.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Angela Yu, Project Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-4957
Telephone: 517-599-5487
Email: YuA@Michigan.gov

Figure 1: Gladstone Sanitary Sewer Improvements

